

DATING: FINDING LOVE AFTER THE CURTAIN CALL

ONE SHOW REMINDS AUDIENCES IT'S NEVER TOO LATE. PAGE 21

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Thursday, March 20, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork



*My neighbor
won't turn down
the TV!*

*Why is it so loud in the
apartment above me?*

*There's a strange
smell coming from
across the hall.*

*Garbage cans down
the street from me
are overflowing.*

*A family
on my block
isn't taking care
of their yard.*



**Alexander
Ludwig is
'Viking'
awesome**

PAGE 14

**New ideas
with New
Directors/
New Films**

PAGE 18

**Jets to offer
Vick chance
to compete
for starter**

PAGE 27

Drawing the

LINE

Anonymous hater. Scott McGrath of Staten Island has repeatedly had someone in his neighborhood call 311 to make baseless complaints against his house. **Fighting back.** A new law introduced in City Council aims to curb using the 311 system as a way for neighbors to harass each other across the city. PAGE 02

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NEWS



Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: Watch all of Christopher Walken's dance moves in one mash-up clip'

2 'Bad bromance? Guy makes romantic music video of unwitting friends'

3 'The Giver' film adaptation gets a trailer'

Quoted

"The MTA is committed to safe operations at all its agencies."

Thomas Prendergast, MTA Chairman, about plans to install outward- and inward-facing video and audio recorders on its trains after the fatal Bronx train accident that happened in December.

Proposed law targets 311 call 'harassment'

Help. The bill would limit anonymous and baseless 311 complaints against properties.



See more at
www.metro.us

One of the first complaints against Scott McGrath's property last year came six months after Superstorm Sandy nearly destroyed his New Dorp Beach home on Staten Island.

Entered on April 28, 2013, the complaint cited excessive debris at McGrath's Roma Avenue house, according to Department of Building records.

"We were still cleaning up after Sandy," McGrath, 46, said nearly a year later. "And we get a phantom call about garbage on my property? Come on."

An inspector later ruled that the complaint was unwarranted, but McGrath's property has continued to be cited for numerous unsubstantiated buildings violations, from construction without a permit to illegal conversion. McGrath said he believes a neighbor who once threatened him is using 311, the city's non-emergency call service, as a tool for harassment.

"We keep getting these anonymous calls," said McGrath, who lives with his wife. "We're going insane."

Councilman Steven Matteo said McGrath is not alone. Since 2006, when Matteo became chief of staff to his predecessor, current Staten Island Borough President Jimmy Oddo, his district office has recorded over 50 cases of residents like McGrath who are being subjected to 311 "harassment."

"It gets to the point where it's ruining some people's lives," Matteo said.

A City Council bill introduced by Matteo last month aims to end such "neighbor-versus-neighbor" 311 disputes.

Under the measure, which has bipartisan support from five other co-



Deidre and Scott McGrath say that they have been harassed with 311 complaints by a disgruntled neighbor. / MILES DIXON, METRO

New bill

The law proposed by Matteo aims to curb 311 "harassment."

- Under the bill, properties would be ruled the subject of "harassment" after receiving three or more baseless and anonymous 311 complaints

within six months.

- The property would then be off-limits to anonymous non-emergency complaints.
- The law would apply to any property occupants who are the subject of

repeat anonymous 311 calls, be it homeowners, renters or leasers.

- Though McGrath has struggled with building calls, the law would pertain to other 311 complaints, like noise or mold.



Scott McGrath's house was damaged in Sandy. / MILES DIXON, METRO

sponsors, a property like McGrath's would be ruled the subject of harassment upon receiving three or more baseless 311 complaints within six months. For three months after that, the 311 customer service center would only document non-emergency calls about the property without referring them to a city agency.

The law would apply to any property occupants who are the subject of repeat anonymous 311 calls, be it homeowners, renters or leasers, according to Matteo's office.

Matteo's bill, he said, would not limit "legitimate" calls to 311, which is used to report everything from relentless dog barking to potholes.

Weapon

"I'm not trying to prevent 311 from taking calls. This is about [preventing neighbors from] using 311 as a harassment tool."

Matteo

If complaints against McGrath's home continue at the same rate under the new law, his property would be considered harassed.

Five buildings complaints against his home were logged on April 28 and 29 last year alone, according to city records. Including the call about debris, four were deemed

unsubstantiated after an inspection. Just one — a complaint about electrical wiring — warranted a notice of deficiency because of Sandy damage.

His property received nine total complaints in 2013 and two more this year.

McGrath said part of the hassle is that he must be home for inspections, which are often during work hours. Matteo said that the calls can also waste resources.

"It clogs up the system," he said.

A spokeswoman said it is the policy of 311 not to comment on proposed legislation.

McGrath said he hopes the bill, if passed, will eventually stop the complaints and ease his family's Sandy recovery. He said several others in the neighborhood also hit hard by the storm have been fielding similar 311 complaints.

"People are trying to get their lives back together," he said. "They shouldn't be harassed — that's the bottom line."

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The new LaGuardia Airport would be bright and updated, and it would have a modern look. / NEOSCAPE

Firm has bright vision for the grimy LaGuardia

Makeover. The new renderings paint a rosy picture of what the hub could look like.

New York's LaGuardia Airport has long suffered a bad reputation, but one Manhattan design firm put out a new vision for the national hub.

Renderings from Neoscape show a bright, curvy, modern structure that would service something like the 26 million passengers who used LaGuardia in 2013.

The drawings were created for the Global

Gateway Alliance, an airport modernization advocacy group.

The New York Post reported that the 1.3-million-square-foot structure is one-third larger than the existing building and leaves space for a direct subway line.

At least three bids remain for LaGuardia's main terminal redesign estimated to cost \$2.5 billion, according to Crain's New York Business.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has called for the state to take control of LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports.

"LaGuardia, JFK — [it's] inexcusable, frankly, that they have not been redeveloped to keep pace with the best international airports."

Inexcusable

Cuomo

with the best international airports," Cuomo said. "And that's something that we're going to attend to."

CHESTER JESUS SORIA
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Queensboro

Cab driver dies after seizure in bridge crash

A cab driver suffered a seizure and died while driving on the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge late Tuesday.

Police said Vadro Kone, 55, was driving his 2009 Ford Escape with a passenger towards Queens on the bridge at midnight when he suffered a heart attack.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

Brooklyn. SUV lands on top of subway train

A woman was arrested after an SUV she was driving crashed into a fence and landed on a southbound Q train in Brooklyn on Wednesday morning, MTA and police officials said.

Hannah Harris, 20, was charged with leaving the scene after the accident, which occurred at Albemarle Road and East 16th Street just before 5 a.m.

The Brooklyn resident was also charged with



The accident
[@BKSOSHANNAH](http://BKSOSHANNAH), TWITTER

filling a false police report for telling cops the vehicle was stolen before the crash. ANNA SANDERS

Sting nabs JFK cab dispatchers on bribe charges

Taxi. Dispatchers would move those who paid to the front of the line.

Sixteen airport taxi dispatchers were arrested and charged with allegedly receiving unlawful bribes after an undercover operation found some drivers paid to cut the line for passengers.

After receiving a tip December 2012, investigators found dispatchers would receive cash payments as low as \$10 in exchange for skipping the lines to go

pick up passengers at John F. Kennedy Airport's terminals.

On average, taxis hang out in the holding area for two to three hours.

The dispatchers cut that wait time down significantly for any driver who would pony up.

While the cash amounts were low, busy days and thousands of cabs could result in hundreds of dollars in one shift, said Queens District Attorney Richard Brown in a statement.

The Port Authority's New Jersey-based subcontractor Gateway Group One Frontline Services — which hired the dispatch-



Taxi cabs at JFK / GETTY IMAGES

ers — has already launched a new, real-time tracking system to prevent a repeat of the scam.

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Investigation

Rikers Island inmate 'baked to death' in cell

A city inmate was "baked to death" in an overheated jail cell at Rikers Island last month, according to a report.

Officials told the Associated Press that the body of Jerome

Murdough, 56, was found dead in a cell that overheated to at least 100 degrees, likely because of malfunctioning equipment.

The former Marine was found in a cell in the unit around 2:30 a.m. on Feb. 15. The temperature of the cell and his internal temperature were at least

100 degrees, according to the AP.

"He basically baked to death," one of the officials said.

An autopsy was inconclusive, but officials told the AP that the medication Murdough was on could have made him more vulnerable to heat. He also didn't open a vent in his cell. ANNA SANDERS

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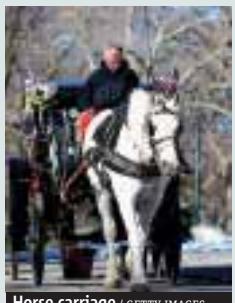


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No horsing around

New poll says majority of New Yorkers want to keep horse carriages

Mayor Bill de Blasio's opposition to horse-drawn carriages in Central Park has few fans in a new poll that was released Wednesday.



Horse carriage / GETTY IMAGES

A new Quinnipiac University poll shows that 64 percent of New York City voters do not want to see the mayor ban the controversial carriages. The feeling is shared by a majority in each demographic, Democrat or Republican, man or woman.

In fact, the number of those defending the carriage industry saw

an increase, up from the 61 percent that was measured in January.

The poll also asked voters whether they preferred de Blasio or Gov. Andrew Cuomo's plan to fund prekindergarten.

Only 35 percent of those polled supported de Blasio's plan. Fifty-four percent would rather use Cuomo's plan. **CHESTER JESUS SORIA**



Sulaiman Abu Ghaith is a former spokesperson for al Qaeda. / GETTY IMAGES

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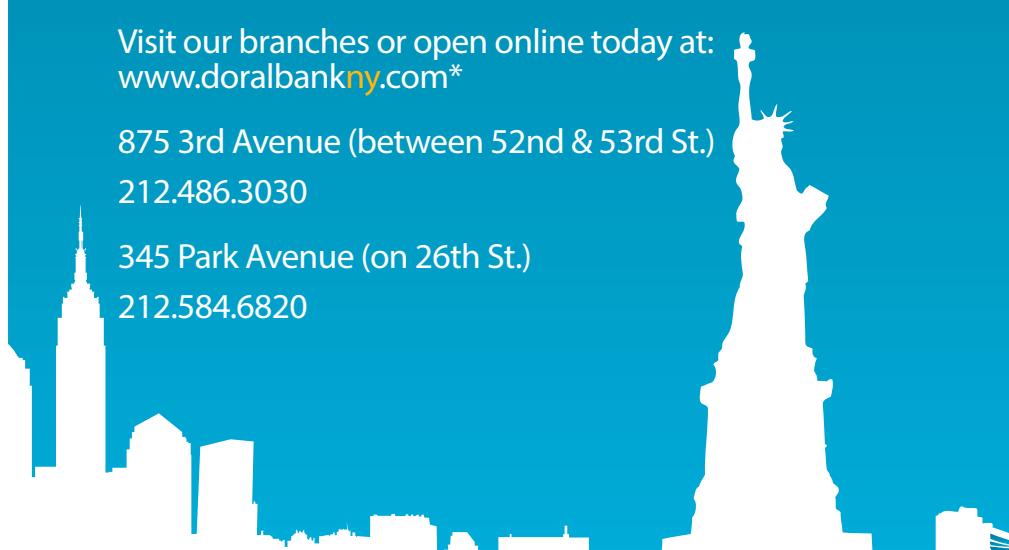
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Bin Laden's son-in-law takes stand in NY court

Terror. Abu Ghaith got up to speak in his own defense while on trial for conspiracy to kill Americans.

Osama bin Laden's son-in-law Sulaiman Abu Ghaith took the stand in his own defense Wednesday in New York federal court against charges that he conspired to kill Americans.

Abu Ghaith, a former al Qaeda spokesman, is one of the highest-profile people to face terrorism-related charges in a civilian court in the United States.

The U.S. government contends that Abu

Ghaith, 48, became a leader of al Qaeda militants after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks as a spokesman and recruiter of fighters and that he knew of planned attacks against the United States.

Abu Ghaith is also accused of providing material support and resources to terrorists.

The defendant has pleaded not guilty, and faces life in prison if convicted. His lawyers have argued there is no evidence that he knew of future attacks.

Abu Ghaith's decision to testify came a day after U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan ruled that jurors would not hear testimony from Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the accused mastermind of the 9/11 attacks. **REUTERS**

On the stand

Sulaiman Abu Ghaith taking the stand was considered a surprise move.

- He recounted meeting Osama Bin Laden right after the 9/11 attacks.

- He said that Bin Laden asked him to spread his word around the world.
- Abu Ghaith is married to one of Bin Laden's daughters.



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NEWS

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Missing. Anger erupts as jet search drags on



Chinese relatives of passengers are stopped and escorted away from the media center by Malaysian police. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

They are just saying wait for information. Wait for information. We don't know how long we have to wait."

Mother of a missing passenger

Chinese relatives' anger about sparse information on the fate of their loved ones onboard a missing Malaysian airliner sparked chaotic scenes Wednesday at the headquarters of a search operation that has so far turned up few clues.

Malaysia's transport minister ordered an inquiry after security guards carried out the distraught mother of a passenger on Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 from a briefing room where she had been protesting a lack of transparency, 12 days after the plane vanished.

Prospects that a 26-nation operation would lead to quick results appeared to be dwindling as investigators confirmed they were focusing on the southern Indian Ocean after failing to find any traces farther north. REUTERS

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Russian forces storm Ukraine base in Crimea

Overthrown.

Putin said his move to annex Crimea was justified by "fascists" in Kiev.

The United States warned Moscow on Wednesday that it was on a "dark path" to isolation after Russian troops backed by unarmed volunteers stormed Ukraine's naval headquarters in the Crimean port of Sevastopol and raised their flag.

The dramatic seizure came as Russia and the West dug in for a long confrontation over Moscow's annexation of Crimea, with the United States and Europe groping for ways to increase pressure on a defiant Russian



Russian military personnel surround a Ukrainian military base in Perevalnoe, Ukraine. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"As long as Russia continues on this dark path, they will face increasing political and economic isolation." Vice President Joe Biden

President Vladimir Putin.

Biden was in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, part of a quick trip to reassure

Baltic allies worried about what an emboldened, aggressive Russia might mean for their nations.

Lithuania, along with Estonia and Latvia, are NATO members.

"There is an attempt, using brutal force, to redraw borders of the European states and to destroy the post-war architecture of Europe," Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite said.

The United Nations

said Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon will push for a peaceful solution to the crisis when he meets Putin in Moscow today and when he travels to Kiev on Friday.

Russian lawmakers raced to ratify a treaty making the Ukrainian region part of Russia by the end of the week, despite threats of further sanctions from Washington and Brussels.

The Russian military moved swiftly to neutralize any threat of armed resistance in Crimea.

"This morning they stormed the compound. They cut the gates open, but I heard no shooting," said Oleksander Balanyuk, a captain in the navy, exiting the compound. "This thing should have been solved politically." **REUTERS**

Ukraine crisis

Pentagon chief meets with top business leaders

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel spoke to chief executives of major U.S. companies Wednesday to explain the Pentagon's 2015 budget proposal and to field possible questions about the economic impact of rising tensions with Russia.

Hagel addressed members of the Business Roundtable on Wednesday afternoon, filling in for Vice President Joe Biden, who was originally scheduled to speak.

REUTERS

Defense budget

\$496B

Hagel discussed the Defense Department's \$496 billion budget proposal for the 2015 fiscal year and the strategy underlying the plan.

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Is the government insinuating itself between you and your all-natural cures? The truth is out there, says half of Americans. / GETTY IMAGES

Medical conspiracies believed by many

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Ill at ease. Half of Americans buy into theories about medical cabals.

About half of American adults believe in at least one medical conspiracy theory, according to new survey results. But some theories have more traction than others.

For example, three times as many people believe U.S. regulators prevent people from getting natural cures as believe that a U.S. spy agency infected a large number of African Americans with the human immunodeficiency virus.

J. Eric Oliver, the study's lead author from University of Chicago, said people may believe in conspiracy theories because they're easier to understand than complex information.

"Science in general — medicine in particular — is complicated and cognitively challenging, because you have to carry around a lot of uncertainty," Oliver said.

Understanding the reluctant

Overall, the researchers say people who believed in conspiracies were more likely to use alternative medicine and to avoid traditional medicine. Oliver said the findings may have implications for doctors.

- Instead of viewing patients who believe in conspiracy theories as crazy, he said doctors should realize those patients may

be less likely to follow a prescription regimen.

- "It's important to increase information about health and science to the public," he said. "I think scientific thinking is not a very intuitive way to see the world. For people who don't have a lot of education, it's relatively easy to reject the scientific way of thinking about things."

Quoted

"Science in general — medicine in particular — is complicated and cognitively challenging, because you have to carry around a lot of uncertainty." Oliver

For the new study, he and his colleague used data from 1,351 adults who answered an online survey between August and September 2013. The data were then weighted to represent the U.S. population.

The participants read six popular medical conspiracy theories and then indicated whether they had heard of them and whether they agreed or disagreed with them.

Like the theories about conspiracies to infect African-Americans with HIV and to prevent citizens

By the numbers

49%

Some 49 percent of the survey participants agreed with at least one of the conspiracies.

37%

In addition to the 37 percent of respondents who fully agreed that U.S. regulators are suppressing access to natural cures, less than a third were willing to say they actively disagreed with the theory.

from accessing alternative medicines, the other theories on the list had mistrust of government and large organizations as themes.

They include the theory that the government knows cell phones cause cancer but does nothing about it, that genetically modified organisms are being used to shrink the world's population, that routine vaccinations cause autism and that water fluoridation is a way for companies to dump dangerous chemicals into the environment. **REUTERS**

Social dis-ease

Do you 'like' how I look?

Social media that emphasizes sharing and commenting on photos and other images may feed the anxieties of young women with eating

disorders, according to U.S. researchers.

In experiments with a group of female college students, those who logged into their Facebook accounts were more likely to worry about their weight and body shape

afterward, compared to women who read online articles about a neutral topic.

For those working on treatment and prevention of eating disorders, the effects of spending time on Facebook may be a factor

to take into account, the study team suggests.

"We've done research on peer influences in other contexts — this is the first time we've looked at social media use," Pamela Keel told Reuters Health. **REUTERS**

Not very trusting

States to probe Comcast plan to buy Time Warner Cable

Florida and other states will join the Justice Department in seeking to determine if Comcast's plan to merge with Time Warner Cable is legal under federal antitrust law, Florida officials said.

"We are part of a

multistate group reviewing the proposed transaction along with the U.S. DOJ Antitrust Division," the state attorney general's office said in an email. It was not known how many states had joined the task force.

Indiana officials were also looking at the deal to determine "the potential impact," said Erin Reece, a spokeswoman for the Indiana AG's office. **REUTERS**

Presidential prognostication

Obama predicts Michigan State to win NCAA championship

President Barack Obama thinks Michigan State will win the NCAA men's basketball college championship.

The problem? As president, Obama has correctly predicted the winner only once, when North Carolina won the



A nascent Nostradamus?
GETTY IMAGES

championship in 2009.

As announced on ESPN, Obama's Final Four picks for the NCAA tournament, which starts this week, are: Michigan State, Arizona, Florida and Louisville.

Obama picked Michigan State to knock off top-ranked Florida to advance to the final against Louisville, which he predicted would beat Arizona. **REUTERS**

By the numbers

\$45.2B

The deal between the two companies is worth \$45.2 billion

Pennsylvania, where Comcast is headquartered, was "reviewing the case independently," said Joe Peters, a spokesman for the state's attorney general's office. **REUTERS**

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Nataliya L., USA Vein Clinics Patient

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The central bank

Fed may have to keep rates low after economy finds footing

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday pushed forward with plans to slowly wind down its stimulus but said it will likely need to keep rates low even after the economy regains its health.

In announcing its view on future rates after a policy meeting, the Fed also dropped a set of guideweeks it was using to help the public anticipate when it would finally start bumping overnight borrowing costs up from zero. **REUTERS**



FED CHAIR JANET YELLEN /GETTY IMAGES

In US contraception case, a question of corporate rights

Provision. The cases were brought by owners who want an exemption from the "contraception mandate."

The U.S. Supreme Court could dodge the contentious question of whether corporations have religious rights when it weighs objections to an Obamacare requirement that employers provide insurance coverage for

contraception.

The court, which hears oral argument in two consolidated cases on March 25, could rule that individuals who own closely held companies, rather than the corporations themselves, can argue their religious rights have been violated. Such a ruling would allow the court to avoid criticism that it favors corporate rights too much.

The latest challenge to part of President Barack Obama's 2010 health care overhaul is one of the most closely watched cases before the nine

justices this year, mixing religion, women's rights and politics.

The justices will weigh whether the companies or their owners have a claim under a 1993 federal law called the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which ensures the free exercise of religion.

Religious institutions are exempt from the regulation.

One option for the justices is to adopt the approach a federal appeals court in Washington took in one of dozens of cases being litigated around

the country and rule owners have a right to object, ignoring the question of whether companies can.

"It does kind of give a middle way to duck the legally controversial question," said Francis Manion, a lawyer for Roman Catholic brothers Francis and Philip Gilardi in the case decided by the Washington, D.C., court. The brothers own Freshway Foods and Freshway Logistics in Sidney, Ohio, and object to providing insurance that covers all federally approved contraceptives. **REUTERS**

Vote

5-4

In June 2012, the justices upheld by a 5-4 vote the constitutionality of Obamacare's core feature that requires people to get health insurance. This issue is the first Obamacare case the court has taken since then.



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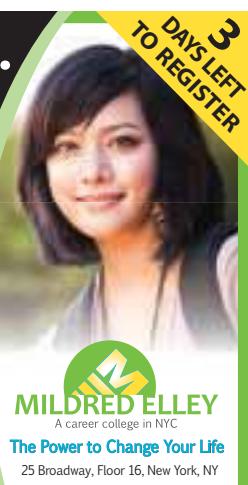
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WIREIMAGE

Shailene Woodley's big red carpet moment

At the tender age of 22, Shailene Woodley is about to helm one of the year's most anticipated sure-to-be blockbusters, "Divergent." Here she is with co-star Kate Winslet at the film's Los Angeles premiere Tuesday night.

Talking points

M.I.A.'s huge NFL fine

Rapper M.I.A.'s feud with the NFL isn't going away, as the sports league has apparently been after her for two years to pay a \$1.5 million fine for flipping the bird during the 2012 halftime show, according to the Hollywood Reporter. On top of that, the NFL is apparently looking for an additional \$15.1 million in "restitution" because of how much exposure the stunt garnered M.I.A. The NFL maintains that her stunt was a "flagrant disregard for the values that form



the cornerstone of the NFL brand and the Super Bowl," a charge her legal team finds laughable. "The claim for restitution lacks any basis in law, fact or logic," her rep says. "The continued pursuit of this proceeding is transparently an exercise by the NFL intended to bully and make an example of [M.I.A.] for daring to

challenge the NFL." The rapper at least has a sense of humor about it, asking fellow halftime performer Madonna if she can borrow \$16 million in a tweet that was later deleted.

Career day with Charlie Sheen

Career day at school is a lot more interesting when one of the parents speaking is Charlie Sheen. The former "Two and a Half Men" star did just that recently at the elementary school that his daughters Sam, 10, and Lola, 8, attend, according to Radar Online. "At the last

See more at
www.metro.us



Back in October 2006 — did they, or didn't they?

WIREIMAGE

Everyone! Important news! More names on Lindsay Lohan's sex list have been revealed! And yes, you will want to know who they are.

Earlier in the month, I told you about In Touch's "world exclusive" report, in which the mag somehow got hold of Lohan's handwritten conquest list. Heath Ledger, Adam Levine, Zac Efron, Justin Timberlake, Joaquin Phoenix, Colin Farrell, Evan Peters, Wilmer Valderrama, and Jamie Dornan all made the cut, for better or worse. However, some of the names were blanked out for what everyone assumed were legal reasons — but now we know it was just a clever way for In Touch to drag the story out for as long as possible.

The new round of names include Ashton Kutcher, Orlando Bloom, Benicio Del Toro, Ryan Phillippe, rugby player Danny Cipriani, NHL player Aaron Voros and director Josh Mond.

So, there you go.

Everyone famous who Lindsay Lohan has had sex with. The only person missing from the list is Danny DeVito. And at this point, he probably wasn't on the list because she couldn't figure out how to spell "DeVito."

2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Solange Knowles is just trying to be clearer, Anna Kendrick is feeling overexposed, Kirstie Alley is experiencing technical difficulties and Patton Oswalt is on the case.

@solangelknowles: Think'n about adding "this is shade" to all my tweets that r actually shade, in the way u have to add "this is sponsored" to avoid confusion

@AnnaKendrick47: Hey fellow humans, when u see me out picking up prescriptions and want to get a photo, can u be super cool and just not do that? Thank you!!

@kirstiealley: Damn!! Can't see my tweets again!! GRRRRRRRRRR seriously GRRRRRRRRRR

@pattonoswalt: That Sherlock Cumberbatch man could find the Malaysian plane in 5 minutes. -- someone's mom, probably

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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You might know Canadian actor Alexander Ludwig as Cato, the brutish Career tribute in "The Hunger Games." Now he's taking on another tough-guy role, that of bold and bestial Bjorn, son of young warrior Ragnar, in season two of HISTORY's "Vikings."

Were you nervous about joining an already established cast?

Yeah, it's always a little

ness. Bjorn was a very powerful Viking and he was able to command a lot of attention at a young age. I think a lot of that has to come from the fact that he was very sincere and he rarely smiled — when he did it really meant something. Everything he did had a purpose and in that way he was also a very intellectual and loving person. I wanted to keep that depth

ALEXANDER LUDWIG

The "Hunger Games" alum moves to TV for "Vikings."

BJORN TO BE WILD

Nude Norseman

Let's talk about your costumes — or maybe, in your case, your lack thereof.

intimidating when you're joining a cast that's been around, but they welcomed [me] with open arms and we got along super well.

Did you know much about Vikings before joining the show?

No, and I think that's why "Vikings" is doing so well — it is a part of history that not a lot of people know about, so there's very little to go off of. I think the reason people are loving "Vikings" too is whenever they hear about Vikings they hear about these bad people who raided and did all this raping and pillaging and whatnot, but when you see it from their perspective it's definitely an interesting story. This family were real people and they went on to do unbelievable things. They really laid the foundation upon which our world was built.

What are the challenges of playing someone who's so long gone?

I think there's a lot more freedom just because it was so long ago. There's very little for me to go off of. The only pressure really came from the fact that the character's already been established in the first season, so I took it upon myself to really ensure that there were certain fundamentals that I wanted to stay consistent with my character, like [his] depth and earnest-

For the most part I am clothed. [Laughs] It's unbelievable what they've done with the costumes and I give a lot of props to the costume department. They've gone above and beyond and researched exactly what [the characters] would look like back then, and a lot of the material they make it out of is how they actually made their costumes back then. It really just makes it so much easier as an actor; you don't have to pretend to be a Viking at all. The sets are so exceptional and the clothing is so real you already feel you're in it.

to him, but also, four years have gone by since you last saw him and a lot can change, so I wanted also to show that maturity to him now.

Who would win in a fight between Bjorn and Cato?

Bjorn would win. He's just so vicious.

 MEREDITH ENGEL
@MeredithAtMetro
meredith.engel@metro.us

TV Watch list



We are here for you, Garrison Keillor. "Portlandia" airs Thursday night. / IFC

COMEDY

'Portlandia'

Jello Biafra plays an '80s punk who comes out of a coma while Malcolm and Kris tailgate outside a live "Prairie Home Companion" show. Just reading that should provoke a chuckle or two. If not, don't bother. There are special guests galore Thursday night.

IFC, 10 P.M.

SPORTS

'NCAA Tournament'

Expect some upsets. It's the second round and with top-ranking seeds playing the lowest, nothing is as thrilling as an underdog throwing everyone's bracket out of whack. March Madness continues Thursday night on four channels.

4 P.M., NBC/TBS/TNT/TRUTV

COMEDY

'Community'

Despite its stellar cast, this show continues to be hit or miss — mostly the latter. But with special guest David Cross and a game of "Dungeons & Dragons" planned, Thursday night's show has the potential to be especially unruly... and nerdy. 8 P.M., NBC

NOLAN GAWRON



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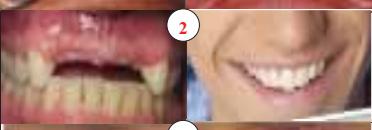
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ADMIT ONE

Metro rounds up
what's in cinemas
this week.

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Is that Kermit the Frog or his Russian master?

1 'Muppets Most Wanted' The second of the original run of Muppet movies was a caper comedy set overseas, and so is the second of the reboot lot. The Jason Segel-less sequel finds Kermit discovering he has a criminal doppelganger who robs museums with Ricky Gervais.

2 'Divergent' Perhaps you too can write a YA series that will become a splashy and aggressively promoted would-be film franchise! Veronica Roth's tales of futuristic Chicago teens get no less than Shailene Woodley, plus no less than Kate Winslet as the baddie.

3 'Nymphomaniac: Volume I' It was probably inevitable that incorrigible provocateur and Hitler joke-maker Lars Von Trier would make a four-hour sex movie. In part one, Charlotte Gainsbourg plays a super freak who talks about her past shtupping Shia LaBeouf and others. ("Volume II" will be out on April 4.)

4 'Blood Ties' The French crime drama "Rivals" gets its American remake,

albeit directed by one of its French stars ("Tell No One" helmer Guillaume Canet). Billy Crudup and Clive Owen play brothers on opposite sides of the law, while Zoe Saldana, Mila Kunis and Marion Cotillard play their ladies.

5 'Jodorowsky's Dune' Now that Kanye and St. Vincent are shouting out to old surreal Chilean filmmaker Alejandro

Jodorowsky, it's a great time for this doc about his batty, 10-hour and tragically aborted film of Frank Herbert's "Dune"—possibly the greatest film never made.

6 'The Missing Picture' A nominee for this year's Foreign Language Film Oscar, Rithy Panh's semi-doc takes an unusual and haunting look at the Khmer Rouge, depicting

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criminal doppelganger with a sinister mole, in "Muppets Most Wanted" / DISNEY

life in the death camps with clay figures in increasingly harrowing dioramas.

7 'The French Minister'
A less sweaty, Gallic version of "In the Loop" and "Veep," the latest from Bertrand Tavernier ("The Princess of Montpensier") hangs in the office of a keyed-up politician (Thierry Lhermitte) who opposes the Iraq War.

8 'Need for Speed' Can Aaron Paul survive after "Breaking Bad"? Is he even the same person without liberal use of profanities? Find out as he races across the country.

9 'Mr. Peabody & Sherman' Rocky and Bullwinkle don't have the greatest track record when it comes to movies. But here we go again, with the history-themed dog-and-

boy segments transformed into a time travel movie.

10 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' The latest Wes Anderson joint probably won't win over detractors, but that's their loss. The filmmaker creates his own country, where a concierge (Ralph Fiennes) gets involved in some business after banging an octogenarian (Tilda Swinton).

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Something new



One of "The Double"'s two Jesse Eisenbergs takes Mia Wasikowska on an awkward date. / DEAN ROGERS

Cinema. The annual New Directors/New Films series boasts an art house "Death Wish" and two Jesse Eisenbergs.

Not all of the directors in MoMA and the Lincoln Center's annual New Directors/New Films series are new; a few are on their second, even third film. But they're all at least still new at their jobs, and the series, as ever, captures exciting, promising and even already great artists when they're still wet behind the ears.

You can go online to see our reviews of six of the 27 features (and plenty of shorts) available this go-around. That would

include "The Double," actor-filmmaker Richard Ayoade's follow-up to the dry teen romance "Submarine." His new one performs a Kafkaesque twist on Dostoevsky's novella, with meek clerk Jesse Eisenberg meeting a more confident and jerkish Jesse Eisenberg.

The beautifully named (and beautiful) "The Strange Color of Your Body's Tears" is another loving and abstract homage to the '70s Italian giallo genre from the directors of "Amer." The Chilean drama "To Kill a Man" reimagines "Death Wish" as a long take-heavy art house mesmerizer, with a bullied schlemiel awkwardly taking the law into his own hands.

Meanwhile, Ben Russell and Ben Rivers are not newbies; they're established avant-garde titans.

But a film made by both — namely "A Spell to Ward Off the Darkness" — is practically by a new, two-headed filmmaker. Their contemplative joint effort prowls three different ways of living: from a commune to a remote island to, of all places, a death metal concert. Here's your chance to let it envelope you on the big screen.

If you go

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Alicia Pickney

Age & Hometown: 23, Philadelphia.

How she got her start:

Pickney attended Philadelphia University for fashion design but started sewing when she was 13. Before becoming a designer, she taught people how to start their own businesses, which mixed well with what she was trying to do in the fashion industry. The emerging entrepreneur is now one of the youngest to premiere at Brooklyn Fashion Week and says she couldn't have done it without the support of her close friends and family.

Favorite piece: "My patterned trench coat with leather accents and my overalls are my favorite."

Favorite fall trend: "My go-to trends in the fall are neutrals and socks. I love layering — whether I dress up an outfit or dress it down, I either wear the thigh-highs or layered socks."

JENNIFER VALDEZ
@metronewyork
letters@metro.us

Collection: Lady Pearl

Kouassi Norbert Akou

Age & Hometown: 25, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

How he got his start:

Akou attended Esmod Fashion School in Paris at 18, which is when his passion for fashion really took off.

What inspired the line: Inspired by the women of each ethnic group in Africa, every dress is named after a common woman from each African group to represent the women of that region. He dedicates his collection to those women who can't be on the runway. Akou's goal is to elevate them because "they are beautiful and deserve more respect than they're given."



SHAWN PUNCH

Collection: Bandit

Anthony Rubio

Age & Hometown: "Let's just say I'm over 40," Rubio, who is from New York, says.

How he got his start: Rubio studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology and uses his know-how to design pet couture, and has been featured on the "Today Show."

Favorite piece: "My favorite piece is the feathered dress."

Favorite fall trend:

"I don't care so much about what I wear, but I love my bag. I have so many different bags."

Favorite fall trend:

"Rich colors in wools and tweeds trimmed in metallic leather or faux fur will be the trend."

Style. We catch up with four rising stars at Brooklyn Fashion Week, including a pet couturist!



YONI LEVI

Collection: Richard Fitz

Richard Fitz

Age & Hometown: 22, Johannesburg, South Africa.

How he got his start:

Fitz recently received his fashion degree at Leaders in the Science of Fashion (LISOF) in Johannesburg and has been working in

the fashion industry for three years now.

"I started after my brother and sister-in-law introduced me to fashion and gave me a style makeover," says Fitz. "Then I decided I wanted to be a designer."

Favorite Piece: "My favorite piece is the jacket-



COLLEEN GWEN ARMSTRONG

dress. It's made of raw wool and was hand-felted to mold onto the body without any seams at all."

Favorite fall trend: "I think a big trend is moving away from figure-hugging forms and leaning more toward statement pieces that don't necessarily fit tightly or hug the body."

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Giving love 'A Second Chance' onstage and in life



Brian and Diane Sutherland star in "A Second Chance," playing at the Public Theater through April 13. Tickets (\$45) are available at www.publictheater.org. / JOAN MARCUS

Stage kiss. Life and art fall into step for one couple.

Husband and wife actors Diane and Brian Sutherland speak the way they sing onstage, with overlapping interjections and a genuine rapport. Indeed, the stars of "A Second Chance," at the Public Theater through April 13, are living the story of love found later in life in more ways than one.

Diane wasn't sure she'd get married — until she and Brian wed in their early 40s. Sutherland says that initially, walking

down the aisle wasn't a huge deal to her, but as she got into her late 30s, it got tough. "I really wanted to share my life with somebody and it wasn't coming to me," she says.

She went on blind dates and set-ups and says she definitely would have had an online dating profile, had that been an option then. "I was trying to keep myself open to people beyond my sphere, and I did." But she had no luck — until she shared the stage with Brian in the 1997 Broadway revival of "1776." The rest, so to speak, is one for the Playbills.

Their current musical

Quoted

"It's all perspective. I thought 54 was practically in the grave, but it turns out it doesn't feel that way." Brian

is based on details culled from the real life of the show's composer and lyricist, Ted Shen. In it, a widower meets and falls for a divorcee.

Though their late-blooming romance in real life is about a decade off from that of their real-life characters, the Sutherlands say their own circumstances still give them a way to approach the piece honestly. "We

have the advantage of knowing each other so well. We have this rich history and rich relationship that is for free — we don't have to work at that," says Brian, with Diane chiming in to add that some occasional time apart doesn't hurt, either. They agree that some of the biggest truths they've taken from their experience onstage come from the story itself.

"Even though tragedy, sadness and grief comes into your life, it doesn't mean your life is over," Diane says of playing Jenna each night. She says she hopes audiences come away with the same kind of hope she had after meeting Brian. "There might be something good, better, different, wonderful around the corner. I want people to realize that you're never too late."

For Brian, coming to the role of an older man who has lost his wife has allowed some moments of reflection. "I thought I would have it all figured out by this age — nobody

warned me about that," he says. The Sutherlands also agree that their search for answers onstage is a rare opportunity, especially in an industry obsessed with youth and image.

"A lot of our peers are experiencing this — single, married, whatever. We got here and we're still figuring it out," Diane says, hoping that the audience will applaud the idea of embracing uncertainty and take that with them after the curtain falls. The payoff, she says, is huge.

And she would know.



JULIA FURLAN

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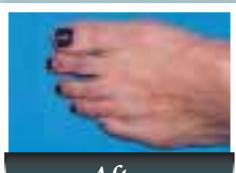
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Before



After

"After 7 years, I can finally wear heels again" - C. Stephen

Welcome to the online

Login. Follow the flowchart to the online portal that suits you best.

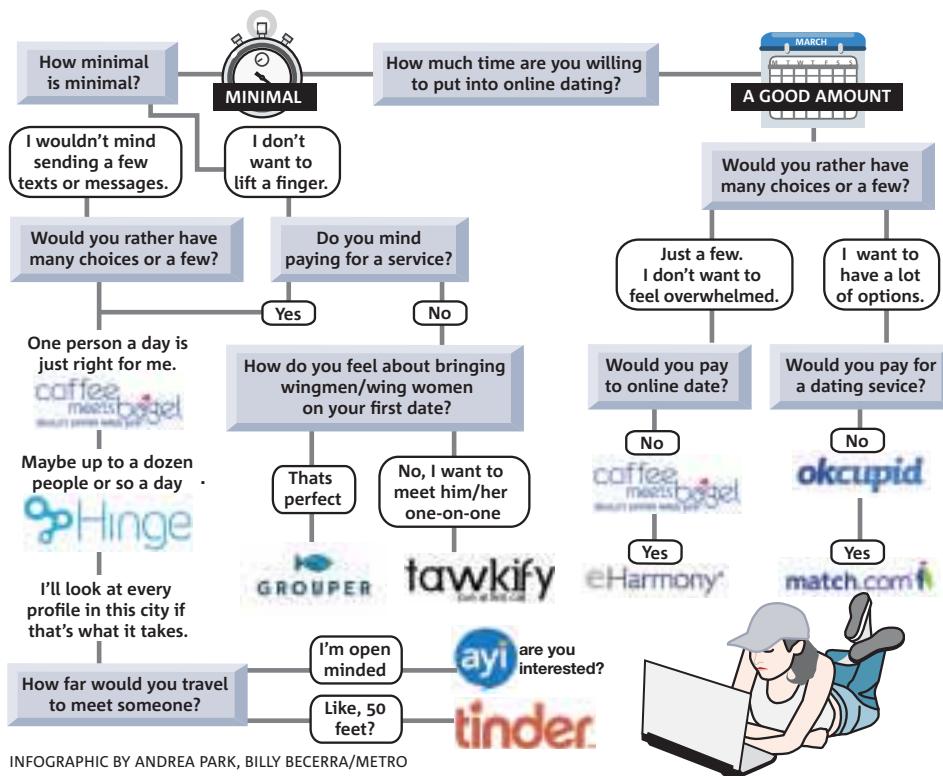
Match.com, eHarmony and OKCupid

These are the OGs when it comes to online dating. The three sites require users to fill out lengthy questionnaires for their profiles and are geared toward people who are willing to put in time to either sift through or write (hopefully thoughtful) messages. The market is increasingly flooded with sites and apps that meet the needs of a short attention span. These three sites are for those willing to make a time commitment. But if you're looking for a lifelong commitment, it just could be worth it.

Coffee Meets Bagel

Men will have plenty of options on this woman-heavy site: Sixty percent of users are female. This free site gives you just one match a day, usually a friend of a Facebook friend, which makes it a great option for busy people who don't have time to sift through profiles. The app targets educated millennials: One third of users have a college degree, 71 percent are in their 20s and 26 percent in their 30s. One drawback: If you don't live in Manhattan, you may not get as much love. Most of the members are based in Manhattan and overwhelmingly prefer users from Manhattan.

Another fun fact? Judaism is the most represented religion on Coffee Meets Bagel. Twenty-two percent of members identify as Jewish, followed closely by Christians at 21 percent.



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dating jungle

Are You Interested?

The free dating site Are You Interested? has a game-like quality to it, in that you are presented with a list of members and you click "Yes" or "Skip" until you get bored. AYI has a wider spread in terms of age: In Manhattan, 35 percent of users are between 21 and 34, 26 percent of users are over 65 and 19 percent are between 35 and 49.

Tinder

This free location-based app lets users see photos of people nearby and swipe left for "nope" or swipe right for "like." If you both like each other, you can start chatting. Tinder will use Facebook to show you any mutual friends, but it does not exclusively show you friends of friends. The average Tinder user is between the ages of 18 and 24 in New York, and the male-to-female ratio is 55 to 45.

Hinge

Hinge lies somewhere between Coffee Meets Bagel and Tinder in concept. It gives users up to a dozen matches a day and chooses

from friends of friends on Facebook. Young folks take note: Almost 80 percent of Hinge members are in their 20s.

Grouper

Grouper bills itself as a social club, not a dating service, but it's an easy way to meet members of the opposite sex while hanging out with two buddies. It sets you and two friends up on a blind meeting with three members of the opposite sex and costs \$20 per person, which includes one round of drinks. It's good if you're unsure about online dating and want to meet people in a more casual setting.

Tawkify

Tawkify sets users up on a blind date (matchmakers choose someone they think is a fit) in which you can either talk on the phone, take a walk together or go on a mystery date. You can join for a pricey membership that includes extra special attention and other perks, or you can pay per date.



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Which site would you guess these two found love on? /ISTOCK PHOTO

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Blossoms at home

The Ladybird

- 2 oz. Pink Pigeon Rum
- ½ oz. Luxardo Cherry Liqueur
- 2 dashes black walnut bitters
- ½ oz. Luxardo Fernet
- 1 lemon spiral

In a mixing glass, add the first three ingredients over ice. Stir to chill. In a separate coupe glass, add Luxardo Fernet and swirl glass until it is fully coated. Strain cocktail from mixing glass into the Fernet-rinsed coupe. Garnish with a Luxardo cherry.



• **Financier Patisserie** has set up the cutest bracket we've seen, pitting different flavored sweets against each other. Will the top dessert be a traditional yummy flavor like s'mores, salted caramel or lavender, or will a more unusual variety like sports drink or fennel take the cake? Vote for your flavor picks each week; the final two will be made and sold in a limited-edition box set. The guest whose bracket comes closest to the actual bracket scores a free year of macarons.

• **Francois Payard** is marking the first day of spring (today, finally!) with a macaron crawl across the city, inspired by and coinciding with Paris' annual Macaron Day. There will be free samples at each of the 15 stops along the tour — Bouchon Bakery, Epicerie Boulud, Macaron Parlour and more are participating — and a portion of the proceeds from the day's event will go to City Harvest. Get the full list of participating bakeries at MacaronDayNYC.com.

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Pastry. It's time for March (macaron) madness in NYC

Spring is in the air (and in these restaurants)

In a welcome sign that warm weather has finally arrived, D.C.'s National Cherry Blossom Festival kicks off today. If you can't make it down to the capital to see the blooms, at least get the feel of the fest with these inspired menu items.

Drink it in NYC

The Cherry Blossom

This cocktail at **Brush-stroke** (30 Hudson St., 212-791-3771) features house-made cherry blossom syrup, Kissui vodka, bitters and fresh lemon juice (\$15).



Pink for your palate

Eat your cherry blossoms

The Duo Tako at **15 East** (15 E. 15th St., 212-647-0015) is slow-poached male and female octopi that have been dusted with salt — the female

with special cherry blossom salt (\$22).



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Try a Japanese delicacy at 15 East. / PROVIDED

Make it at home

Sakura Breeze by Haru Sushi

- 2 shiso leaves
- 1 ¼ oz. Grey Goose Cherry Noir
- ¼ oz. St-Germain elderflower liqueur
- ¼ oz. Ponthier lemon juice
- ¼ oz. simple syrup
- 1 oz. POM pomegranate juice
- club soda

Muddle one shiso leaf in a mixing glass, add remaining ingredients and ice, and shake vigorously for 8-10 seconds. Fill pilsner glass with ice, strain cocktail into ice-filled glass, top off with club soda. Garnish with one shiso leaf.

See more at
www.metro.us



This drink is begging to be served at brunch. / PROVIDED



TALKS

Bitch Trouble: Stories About Friendship

Thursday-Saturday, 9:30 p.m.

The Duplex Cabaret Theater,

61 Christopher St.

\$10, 212-255-5438

www.theduplex.com

Bitch, please! Alice Johnson Bohr shares stories about the highs and lows of female friendship that sound straight out of "Mean Girls" or "Heathers."

"The Stress Remedy" launch

Friday, 7 p.m.

Whole Foods Market,

95 E. Houston St.

Free, 212-420-1320

www.wholefoodsmarket.com

Every New Yorker is stressed out, whether it's from walking behind a really slow tourist who doesn't understand sidewalk etiquette, or from trying to get off the subway and being confronted with jerks who don't understand the "let the people on the train off first" rule. (Amateurs.) Join author Dr. Doni Wilson for her book launch, "The Stress Remedy," and learn how simple food and lifestyle changes can reduce stress. Plus, there will be a tasting, talk and book signing.

COMEDY

NYC Improv Festival

Through March 23

The Pit,

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\$10-\$60, 212-563-7488

www.nycimprovfest.com

Get ready to laugh yourself sick. The NYC Improv Festival gathers some of the best comedians from all over the world to get on stage and improvise a show. You'll laugh, cry and also get discounted drinks at Rose Hill Tavern and Pioneers Bar after the show if you'd like.

PARTY

Bang On! Presents: Frequency Opening Party 2014

Saturday, 10 p.m.

Secret location

Bushwick, Brooklyn, \$40-\$95

www.bangon-nyc.com

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MUSIC

'Bob Dylan in the 80s' record release show

March 24, 8 p.m.

Music Hall of Williamsburg, 66 N. Sixth St., Williamsburg, \$18-\$20, 718-486-5400, www.musicallofwilliamsburg.com

ATO Records is celebrating the release of "Bob Dylan in the 80s: Volume One" with some of the artists who play on the record, including Langhorne Slim, Elvis Perkins, members of Deer Tick (pictured) and more. The artists will be playing covers of songs Dylan released in the '80s — you know, when he was in his prime.

FILM



TC Presents: 'Ghostbusters'

Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Tribeca Cinemas, 54 Varick St., \$15, 212-941-2001, www.tribecacinemas.com

"Caddyshack," "Groundhog Day," "National Lampoon's Vacation," etc. — Harold Ramis left an extraordinary trail of movies in his path before leaving this world far too soon. Celebrate his life by watching him play Egon alongside an all-star lineup including Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Rick Moranis and Sigourney Weaver in the 1980s classic. There's an open bar from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Varick Room; the movie starts at 8:30.

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Horoscope

 Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Be sure to take extra care while en route to a destination. With encouragement on your part, a current companion will turn into a romantic partner.

 Aries | March 21-April 20. Spend an enjoyable time with friends, relatives and family. Good fortune is within reach. Make home improvements.

 Taurus | April 21-May 21. Networking can bring positive results. You will be well-regarded if you join an organization whose principles reflect your beliefs.

 Gemini | May 22-June 20. An incomplete project will be distracting. Share any problems you face with a colleague; asking for help is not a sign of weakness.

 Cancer | June 21-July 22. Love and romance are in the stars. Consider a change of scenery. Participating in a new activity will have some surprising results.

 Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Inactivity is your enemy. Make an effort to go out or find an interesting event in your community. The busier you are, the more energized you will feel.

 Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. It's vital to include some self-promotion in your dealings. When others are aware of your innovative views, they will contribute.

 Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Your abilities will be showcased if you are able to combine business with pleasure. Others will be inspired by your resourcefulness.

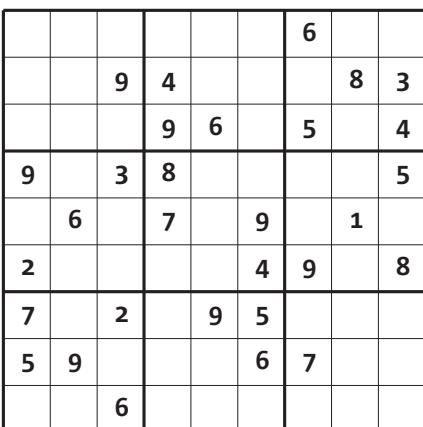
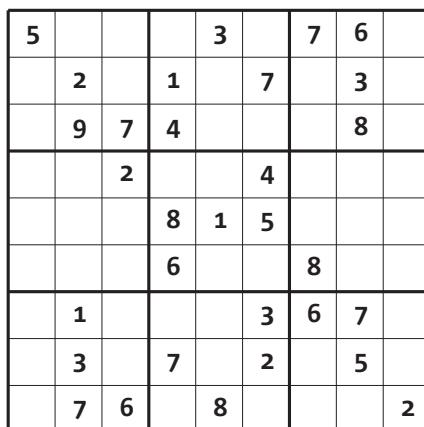
 Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Take a break from everyday activities and surround yourself with people who are in tune with your creative aspirations.

 Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Don't be too quick to reveal your personal affairs. It's possible that someone may be trying to derail your plans.

 Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. There is a world of opportunity open to you, so don't feel trapped in your current situation. Make yourself aware of the many possibilities available.

 Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. If you are feeling unfulfilled, assess your current situation realistically, and prepare to make some changes. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Sudoku: Easy and hard

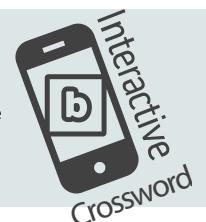


How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Online

You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!



Crossword

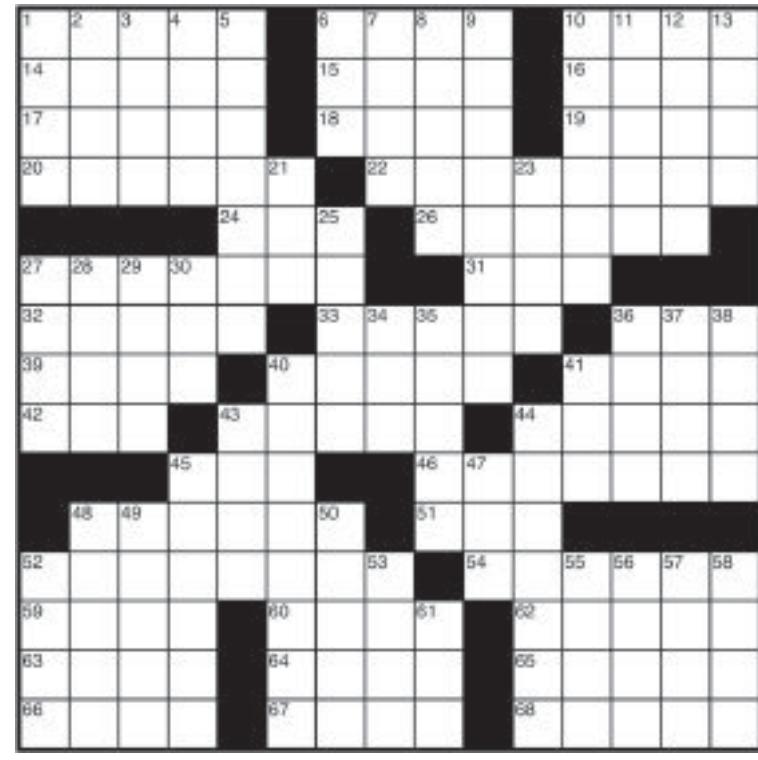
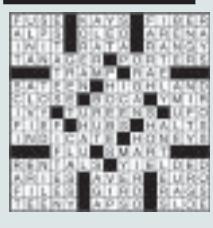
Across

- 1 Deep fissure
- 6 Killer whale
- 10 Coal carrier
- 14 Thin porridge
- 15 Hop, skip or jump
- 16 Burrito alternative
- 17 Kate's brother-in-law
- 18 Fortas and Vigoda
- 19 Not even twice
- 20 Show up for
- 22 False
- 24 Flair for music
- 26 Gumshoe, often
- 27 Hong Kong taxi
- 31 LP spinners
- 32 Verdi numbers
- 33 Abdul or Zahn
- 36 Pull a fast one
- 39 "For the Boys" actor
- 40 Rolling
- 41 Rubens model
- 42 Anka's "— Beso"
- 43 Do a CPA's job
- 44 Like a seance
- 45 Lay low
- 46 Got off the subject
- 48 Poorly made
- 51 Battery size
- 52 Bach pieces
- 54 Minor setback
- 59 Ray gun blasts
- 60 "— old cowhand . . ."

Down

- 62 Baggy
- 63 Toward shelter
- 64 Mr. Wolfe
- 65 Type of statesman
- 66 Lipstick shades
- 67 Make like a beaver
- 68 Name in tractors
- 36 Biceps exercise
- 37 Garfield's victim
- 38 More than want
- 40 Crowding together
- 41 Bird beak
- 43 Slave girl of opera
- 44 Clicked "send"
- 45 Derby entries
- 47 Long sigh
- 48 Fossil rock
- 49 Wished fervently
- 50 Mideast nation
- 52 Autocrat of yore
- 53 Mystery writer — Paretsky
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- 56 Message concealer
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- 58 Yvette's father
- 61 Right this minute
- 1 — Khan
- 2 Holy terror
- 3 Tentlike dwelling
- 4 Desicated
- 5 Cunning
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- 7 Yanks' adversaries
- 8 Walked stealthily
- 9 Without reason
- 10 Zeno followers
- 11 Portage item
- 12 Take place
- 13 Big problems
- 21 Lah-di—
- 23 Hindu noble
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- 27 Move quickly
- 28 Levin and Gershwin
- 29 Hi or bye
- 30 Okla. neighbor
- 34 Rope-a-dope boxer
- 35 "Infra" opposite

Yesterday's answer



Letters

It's time to use your words, US

for the next 30 years.
LETTIE LAWMAN, VIA EMAIL

Why does the transponder have an off switch?

Day after day, we hear investigators tell us they don't know where or how 238 passengers and crew of flight MH370 vanished. I would like a simpler answer: Why is it possible to turn off the transponder, by accident, or with intent, in the first place? Why does a device has an on/off switch in the cockpit?

BOB KAWALEC, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Report: Jets to meet with Vick

NFL. New York plans to talk to the veteran QB, who could push last year's rookie starter Geno Smith.

Geno Smith might have a very big name competing with him under center this season.

The Star-Ledger reports the Jets will be hosting free agent quarterback Michael Vick for a visit this Friday. A source tells Metro's Kristian Dyer he will be offered a chance to come in and compete for the starting role.

The Jets are in the market for a veteran QB to provide competition for Smith, who was a rookie second-round pick last season. Smith won the starting job when Mark Sanchez injured his shoulder in the team's third preseason game. He underwent surgery and missed the entire season.

Vick, meanwhile, spent most of last season on the bench in Philadelphia as Nick Foles ascended to a legitimate starter in the league. Vick battled hamstring injuries early in the season and when Foles threw seven touchdowns



Vick started strong in 2013 with six total touchdowns (two rushing) and zero interceptions his first two games. / GETTY IMAGES

By the numbers

16

Vick started just 16 games over the last two seasons due to injuries and ineffectiveness. He hasn't played more than 13 games in a season since returning to the NFL in 2009.

in Oakland in Week 9, the stage was set for the team's transition.

Vick, who will be 34 at the start of the 2014 season, started the first five games of 2013 before being injured against the Giants on Oct. 6. He returned to face the Giants three weeks later at home, but again aggravated the hamstring injury.

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Bulking up



The 6-foot-3, 315-pound Colon played six seasons for the Steelers before joining the Jets last offseason. / GETTY IMAGES

Jets re-sign guard Colon

It wasn't a splashy move, but the Jets continued an understated offseason on Wednesday by re-signing right guard Willie Colon for a second year with the team.

A team source tells us the deal is for one year. It is for a reported \$2 million.

"I'm happy to be home," said Colon, a Bronx native who went to Hofstra. "I always wanted to be back with the Jets."

Colon started all 16

games for the Jets in 2013 after being signed as a free agent last offseason. Colon was especially invaluable in the locker room where his leadership and veteran presence was an important component of the team's surprising 8-8 season.

He said Wednesday both the Falcons and Vikings showed interest in signing him.

The Jets return four of five starters from last year's offensive line, with only Austin Howard lost via free agency. In his place, they signed Breno Giacomini who will play right tackle. KRISTIAN DYER

3

SPORTS

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Find video and recap of Wednesday night's Nets-Bobcats and Knicks-Pacers games at: Metro.us/sports.

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Talking seeds

Pierce not concerned with playoff seeding

At media day, Paul Pierce said winning the Atlantic Division would not be cause for celebration.

It appears he is taking the same tact when commenting about where the Nets wind up seeded

in the postseason.

"We haven't really said where we want to be [seeded]," Pierce said after practice a day before facing Charlotte. "We obviously want to win the division, but we know that even if we do start on the road, we're a more than capable team that can get the job



PIERCE IS AVERAGING 13.4 POINTS AND FIVE REBOUNDS PER GAME OVER NINE GAMES IN MARCH.

GETTY IMAGES

done on the road."

The Nets seem most likely to finish anywhere between third and sixth in the East. Entering Wednesday, they were 1 percentage point ahead of Washington for fifth, two games behind Chicago for fourth and 2 1/2 games behind division-leading Toronto. **LARRY FLEISHER**



Jackson was gracious toward Mike Woodson on Tuesday, but he didn't commit to retaining him next season. / GETTY IMAGES

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Jackson talks with team on first day

NBA. Head coach Mike Woodson spoke with his new boss and deflected worry about his job security.

No word on whether Phil Jackson had to sit through an HR meeting on his first day on the job with the Knicks, but he did get a chance to meet with his new team — and beleaguered head coach.

"We spoke a little bit today," Mike Woodson told reporters pregame last night. "[He] came in and introduced himself to the coaches and we chatted a little bit."

The Knicks introduced Jackson with much fanfare Tuesday as he took

Quoted

"This is Mr. Dolan's team. He has every right to approach anybody about my job."

Mike Woodson, Knicks head coach
On Jackson being offered to coach

the reins as president of the organization. He was gracious toward Woodson and his superstar Carmelo Anthony despite uncertain futures for both. Jackson indicated he would like Anthony to return even though he can opt out after the season.

He was complimentary of Woodson, though reports have indicated Jackson would like to bring in his own coach.

Owner James Dolan admitted he initially spoke with Jackson about being head coach of the Knicks.

"He has that right to talk to anyone about a coaching position," Woodson said Wednesday. "It happened obviously, but I'm the coach of the Knicks right now. I still have a job to do and as long as I'm coach of this team, I'm going to try to put my best foot forward in terms of trying to get this goal accomplished in terms of trying to get this team into the playoffs."



MARK OSBORNE
@MetroNYSports
mark.osborne@metro.us

NHL power rankings | by Rich Slate

No. 1

Blues (47-14-7)

The Ryan Miller trade seems to be working out quite well for the Blues, huh? Miller is 7-0-1 since he came to St. Louis with a .933 save percentage and 1.61 goals against average. The team won three more games this week and is now 24-of-26 on the penalty kill this month after not allowing one short-handed goal this week. This is the team to beat come playoff time.



No. 2

Bruins (47-17-5)

It's not hard to figure out who the hottest team in the NHL is since Boston has won its last 10 games.



No. 3

Sharks (45-18-7)

Finally, some movement in the NHL power rankings. Anaheim has stumbled and San Jose has taken advantage.



No. 4

Ducks (45-17-7)

It's not so much that the Ducks are playing poorly, they dropped because the teams in their lofty neighborhood have all been on tears.



No. 7

'Hawks (39-15-15)

If you'd told us a few months ago Chicago would be seventh, we would've called you insane. Count them out at your own peril though.



No. 5

Penguins (45-19-4)

Remember when they looked to be a lock for the top seed in the Eastern Conference? Not so much anymore as Boston has taken off.



No. 8

Canadiens (38-25-7)

Montreal has won its last three games to take over second place in the Atlantic Division, though they are still a mile behind Boston.



No. 6

Avalanche (44-20-5)

The Avalanche are 7-3-0 in their last 10 games, but Colorado continues to play steady hockey. They host the Bruins on Friday.



No. 9

Kings (38-25-6)

Despite what you'd expect from this forum, we're not making knee-jerk reactions. So we're not fretting over three straight losses.



No. 10

Wild (36-23-10)

If they get in the playoffs, which looks like a good bet right now, the Wild are going to give some top team trouble in the first round.



No. 13

Leafs (36-26-8)

Is there a more up-and-down team in the NHL than Toronto? Every week, they seem to be on a notable winning or losing streak.



No. 14

Rangers (37-29-4)

Henrik Lundqvist became the winningest goaltender in team history Tuesday night (302) as the Rangers blitzed the Senators, 8-4.



No. 15

Coyotes (33-25-11)

The second wild card in the West looks like it'll be either Phoenix or Dallas. The Coyotes are 6-4-0 in their last 10 games.



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